

- 9 -

04645.0943

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 16 and 30 are pending. No claims are allowed.

1. Claims 2 to 5 and 7 to 16 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The Examiner specifically points to claim 2, subparagraph c. There, a body is claimed. The body supports first and second terminals with a first bore to the first and second co-axial lead openings. The body further has an inlet that receives a lug member. The body also has a through bore that is aligned with an opening in the lug member received into the inlet. That way, the body is secured to the medical device enclosure supporting the lug with a fastener received in the through bore aligned with the lug inlet.

In order to remove any confusion there may be regarding the structure for securing the body to the enclosure, the nomenclature in independent claim 2 has been amended. Now, the body is described as having both a lug-receiving inlet for receiving the lug and a fastener-receiving through bore intersecting the lug-receiving inlet. That way, with the lug received in the lug-receiving inlet in the body, the body is secured to the medical device enclosure with a fastener received in the fastener-receiving through bore in communication with the lug-receiving inlet and an opening in the lug.

Support for these claim amendments are found in Fig. 10 and in the specification beginning at page 13, line 13.

- 10 -

04645.0943

There, the lugs 204, 206 are described as having through apertures 208 and 210. The header is provided with inlets 212 and 214 that receive the lugs (lug-securing inlets). The header is further provided with through bores 216 and 218 (fastener-receiving through bores) that align with the apertures 208, 210 when the header assembly is positioned on the lid 202. Pins 232 and 234 are then inserted into the respective fastener-receiving through bores to connect the header to the medical device.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 2 is now believed to overcome this rejection. Claims 3 to 5 and 7 to 16 are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim. Independent claim 1 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 2.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

2. Claims 2 to 5 and 7 to 15 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Appropriate amendment has been made to independent claim 2.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 1 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiklund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,871,515). The Wiklund et al. patent describes an attachment apparatus for securing a pre-formed header module 12 to a hermetically sealed enclosure 14. Several embodiments are shown for making this connection. However, they all have several common features. As exemplified in Fig. 2 of the patent, upstanding

- 11 -

04645.0943

attachment tabs 52, 54 have respective openings 62, 64. The tabs extend outwardly from a lid for the enclosure 14. Tab channels are formed in the header module 12 to receive the upstanding tabs 52, 54. The header module is then secured in place by use of ultrasonic energy that melts part of the module, causing it to flow and fill the tab channels and openings 62, 64 in the tabs 52, 54.

This is a markedly different connection system than that set forth in amended independent claims 2. This claim now calls for at least one lug-receiving inlet provided into the body with an intersecting fastener-receiving through bore extending outside the body to at least a depth sufficient to communicate with the lug-receiving inlet. The Examiner states that the widened top portion of the bore 242 shown in Fig. 18 of Wiklund et al. can be viewed as an intersecting fastener-receiving through bore. However, the widened top portion of bore 242 does not extend "from outside the body to at least a depth sufficient to communicate with the lug-receiving inlet", as now set forth in amended independent claim 2. Furthermore, this claimed structure would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art having read the Wiklund et al. patent. The use of ultrasonic energy to cause plastic to melt and flow into a channel and an opening in an attachment tab is markedly different than having a fastener received in a through bore intersecting a lug received in a lug inlet.

For this reason, independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art Wiklund et al. patent. Independent claim

- 12 -

04645.0943

2 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 1. Claim 30 has been cancelled.

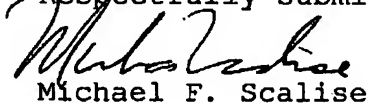
Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Wiklund et al. (alone or in view of Langer-U.S. Patent No. 4,254,775). Claim 30 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot.

5. Figs. 8 and 9 have been emended to correctly include the numerical designation 168 for the lid. Replacement sheets accompany this amendment.

It is believed that claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 16 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 5, 2005